

I am the good Shepherd.
John 10:11

The Shepherd

The good Shepherd giveth
his life for the sheep.
John 10:11

Volume 20 Postmaster: In matter concerning mailing write Winnipeg, Manitoba, First No. in December, 1944
Rev. Josef B. Haave, Rose Valley, Sask.

Second Sunday in Advent

THE SAVING OF SOULS

Epistle: Hebrews 10:35-39

"But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition, but of them that believe to the saving of the soul."—Heb. 10:39.

A new church year has begun, but our main concern is the same—the saving of souls.

Many people in the world and even in our own communities have not been gathered into the fold of Christ. They have not yet begun on the road that leads to God. They must be invited to come along. Christ's marching command is still: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Others have heard and have started on the road, but the road is difficult. They become discouraged and are tempted to turn back. Yet Jesus does not want to break the bruised reed, or to quench the smoking flax. We must strengthen the weak in faith and encourage one another on the way.

We are not eternally saved before we have been delivered from the last judgment. By faith we accept God's promises, we believe to the saving of the soul. Nevertheless in this life there is always the danger of turning back. The infant is adopted into God's family through Baptism. This in itself is no guarantee that every baptized person will be eternally saved. There are many pitfalls between the cradle and the grave, and many fall therein. How urgent that parents pray for their baptized little ones, and instruct them in the Word of God so that in ripper years may remain in Christ even as by Baptism they have been grafted into Him. Through the Sunday School and the pastor's instruction class our church desires to help parents to preserve the children in the faith, and to lead them into a closer fellowship with their Lord and Savior.

The work of the church among the young people is not merely to entertain, but to strengthen, to guide and to develop the spiritual life of the youths while providing an outlet for the expression of faith in a field of service. The women's auxiliaries are mission societies with the emphasis on missions. Thus the women of our congregations express their love for the Lord by service, and by their loving support of our mission projects. Through the preaching of the Word, and this is the chief function of the Church, sinners are warned and invited to accept God's grace, while the children of God are strengthened and admonished to continue in the faith.

Yet, in spite of all the effort that is being done from God's side through the Church, there are many who fall by the wayside. It may be due to neglect of those responsible for the training in the early years. It may be due to indifference and carelessness later in life. There may be other reasons. We have need of patience. For those who draw back it may mean perdition, eternal loss of the soul.

"But we are not of them that draw back unto perdition, but of them that believe to the saving of the soul." Is this your confession? Salvation is altogether by God's grace and to His glory, yet if our soul is lost it is altogether our own fault. By grace God saves us; through the means of grace He keeps us in the faith. We must be faithful in using the Word of God in our homes as well as at Church.

Let there be no absentees from the worship services in the future. When God speaks, it is important enough for us to listen. At His communion table Christ gives Himself in a special manner to His children. We must be frequent guests at the Lord's Supper. Prayer is a means of communicating with God that we are privileged to make use of. Do we?

He that believeth and is baptized, shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all. Amen!

—J. P.

In Memoriam

Since God has called our friend, Trygve Salte from his work on the mission field, we subscribe the following to the Colombia Evangelical Lutheran Mission, in His memory:

Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Pederson and family, Mrs. Mary Youngberg, H. J. Shjelstad, Mr. and Mrs. Art. Shjelstad and family, Mr. and Mrs. Mons Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. P. O. Vinge, Carl Sönnegren, H. H. Pederson, H. Swenson, A. M. Fønstad, A. A. Bergum, O. N. Halvorson, Lars Salte, Lars Lofthus, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Erickson, Leonard Halvorson, Alfred Wee, F. Carlson, Ole S. Luraas, George Wee, Andrew Tenold, Gust Moberg, Edith Vinge, Emma Wee, Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Pederson and family, Clara Hansen, Herborg Røen, Olaf Hagen, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Soydi, A. Swenson, Mary Pederson, Mrs. Martha Olson, Mr. and Mrs. B. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Olaf Knutson, Henry Pederson, Arnold Pederson, Mrs. Hansen and Ole, Mr. and Mrs. O. Listoe, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Bergum, Mr. and Mrs. S. Knutson, Carl Knutson, Mr. and Mrs. H. Halvorson, Gertrude B. Vinge, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Vinge, Axel Vinge, Odean Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Norris Halvosen. Seventy-four dollars was subscribed.

THE MINISTER'S SALARY

Timely Topics

C. K. Solberg

The laborer is worthy of his hire" (Luke 10:7). And so is the minister of the gospel. On the average, our pastors are paid too small salaries, especially in these days, when the cost of living has increased over twenty per cent the last few years.

When we remember that the pastor has spent twelve years in school after finishing the eighth grade to prepare for his calling, he is in most cases paid an inadequate salary. Others spend these years making money and often command larger salaries.

The young man heading for the ministry spends much money and valuable time in securing his education, and then may have to borrow considerable money in order to finish his schooling. He must then as a rule accept a call on a salary of twelve or fifteen hundred dollars in a parish where incidentals are very small. And likely he has a school debt hanging over him for many years before he is able to pay it off. He must install a telephone and buy an automobile, which are mainly used in the service of the parish.

When the time comes to give his children an education, he will again be compelled to go into debt. In a few years he is considered too old to get another and more remunerative call. He must remain where he is, though he feels he ought to move for the good of himself as well as the parish. (Among us a pastor at the age of 45 or 50, when he is really at his best, if in good health, finds it hard to get another call.) And if he stays on too long, some parishes will make life so miserable for him that he is forced to resign, left homeless and often penniless, as he has not been able to lay by anything on his small salary.

During the depression years many pastors volunteered a cut in their salaries, but when good times returned, their salaries were, in many cases, not brought back to their original amount, not to speak of being raised. Other salaried people have received a reasonable raise in these times of prosperity and higher cost of living while we know of many underpaid pastors who have not had a raise since the cost of living has greatly increased.

We hope the needed raise in salary for the officials of our synod made at the recent church convention will be a reminder to many congregations to go and do likewise in giving their pastors and adequate raise.

—Lutheran Herald.

QUESTION BOX

Question: Should Christians mix with worldly people in order to bring them to Jesus?

Answer: There can be no doubt about Christians bringing worldly people to Jesus. Go ye make disciples" certainly means that worldly people are to be brought from a state of (non) discipleship to one of discipleship. That can be done only by Christians contacting them. The word "mix" may not be so fortunate a term. Christians should mix with worldlings like oil and water. Christians should be the oil that stays on the top. They should not be brought under by the worldly influences. Christians are not to be conformed to the world's life and standards. "Be not fashioned according to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God." When Christians fashion themselves according to this world they add sanction and respectability to the world's pursuits and activities. They are then as welcome to the world as candy to the "sweet tooth."

Lose not the place of power. "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost its savor, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out and trodden under foot of men" (Matt. 5:13).

Question: If a person is a true believer in God, but does not go to church, can he be saved?

Answer: If he is a true believer in God, he is a believer in Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Spirit. He confesses, "I believe in God—in Jesus Christ—in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints." If he is physically unable to go to church where the Word is preached and the sacraments administered, the church must go to him. The Holy Spirit will lead him into fellowship with the members of the body of Christ.

Of course, if he be a shipwrecked and marooned "Friday" all alone on an island somewhere, there could be a little more to say on the subject.

"Not forsaking our own assembling together as the custom of some is,—for if we sin wilfully" etc. (Read Hebr. 10:26—31.)

Question: Is there anything unscriptural about belonging to a lodge?

Answer: Every lodge member should be a good enough lodge member to know what his lodge teaches in its literature, liturgies and practices. Many don't know. They are neither good lodge members nor good Christians.

A lodge member said to another, "If we live up to the principles of our lodge that will be good enough. That is more than Christians do." The same old work righteousness religion that the flesh loves. The principles of this lodge implied that salvation consists in being faithful lodge members and good neighbors. No such thing as accepting and confessing Christ as the only hope of salvation. Membership in such lodges is unscriptural and wrong.

There are lodges and organizations and clubs that offer no degree of salvation. What kind of parties do they throw? They are wholesome and clean, they say. According to what standard? The standard of the world? In appraising certain gatherings one said, "We search every one who enters, and no one with anything on the hip may come in." —Bible Banner.

Luther kept three printing-presses going, and yet they could not keep up with his pen. His lightning speed was the despair of friends and foes alike. Wonderful that so hastily done, his writings should so richly repay reading after the lapse of four centuries. —McGiffert in "Life of Luther."

Josef wonders when you're going to renew.

PREPARING THE WAY

We are in the Advent season which the sixth century has been observed in preparation for Christmas. Let us make it truly a preparation for Christmas with its Christ. God says about John the Baptist, "Behold, I send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me." God wants each of His followers to be His messengers and to prepare the way for Him. That should be true at all times, but especially should it be true when we approach the celebration of the birth of our Savior.

During Advent we have special opportunities to prepare the way for Christ. Take for instance in this matter of choosing our Christmas gifts. That prayerless neighbor of yours for whom you thought you would buy a pair of dress socks—Listen, he has the money, he will buy the socks if he needs them, but he will not buy the devotional book which he may need much more and which may be a road into his life on which Christ may ride every day of the year. Prepare the way by giving the book, encouraging him to read it, and praying for him. —And then there is the young girl that lost her Bible and was not concerned enough to get another. A nice little Testament for her would cost only seventy-five cents or a dollar, yet it could be a way by which Christ might reach her. Will you prepare the way? Your unchurched friend has newspapers and periodicals galore. But what about a church paper for him? Instead of buying that dollar neck-tie for him why not send him a two years subscription to The Shepherd, and thus make a bridge over which Christ may reach that secular and sequestered soul twice a week for the next two years? And those poor, neglected children who do not go to Sunday School why not prepare a way for the Christ-Child to come to them by helping them get started in the Sunday School by mail from S.L.B.I.?

May the Holy Spirit lead you also in your Christmas shopping so that every gift you buy may be clearing the path for our Savior into the lives of your neighbors. Then, by the grace of God, our gifts shall prove priceless to our neighbors, and to Christ Himself they shall be more than gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

The redemption that the Bible speaks about includes the idea of being set free from the guilt, dominion, and punishment of sin; to be delivered by the God-provided Redeemer; and to be redeemed in order to belong to God and live a life of loving service of God both here and hereafter. —Theodore Huggenvik in "Your Key to the Bible."

When to Criticize

When your heart is warm with love
Even for your enemies;
When your words come from above,
Not from where the venom is;
When you see the man entire,
Not alone the faults he has;
Find a somewhat to admire
Underneath the paltry mass —
Not till then, if you are wise,
Will you dare to criticize.

When you see the thing that's wrong,
And—a way to better it —
Push a noble cause along,
Not with censure letter it;
When your purpose is to build,
Not to tear the building down
Use the sunshine that will gild,
Not the dark and dismal frown —
Not till then, if you are wise,
Will you dare to criticize.

—A. R. Wells.

The fleetest way in which to get rid of sulking self is to haste to help others.

* * *

Due to circumstances beyond our control the first December issue was delayed. We are therefore sending it out in this altered form together with our Christmas number.

Who Counts The Offering?

Who counts the offering? Naturally it will be the treasurer of the congregation or some other officials. But there is someone else that counts the offering. We are told, in St. Mark 12 and St. Luke 21, how that Jesus counted the offerings of those who made their gifts at the Temple. While He sat over against the treasury He saw several who were rich cast in large amounts. This fact is recorded. Also recorded is the offering of the widow who gave "the mites which make one farthing;" and as Jesus counted He noted that this was the largest offering for it was all she had — "even all her living."

God counts what we give. No one deceives Him by being dishonest regarding his contribution. Ananias and Sapphira tried it; but in that case, too, it was shown that God had checked on their giving. It wasn't all as Ananias and his wife claimed. No one fools God when they give small coin out of their abundance and say that they are giving "the widows mite." Remember that Jesus counts the offering.

J. B. Stolee.

Circuit Met

The Southern Alberta Circuit met for its fall convention at Claresholm, Alberta, Pastor R. O. Olson's charge, November 10-12th.

The theme: "Come! For All Things Are Now Ready" taken from the text Matthew 22:1-14 and its parallel Luke 14: 15-24, was very well presented under various sub-headings by the two guest speakers, Dr. J. R. Lavik of Luther Theological Seminary at Saskatoon, Sask., and the Rev. Gustav Ostrem of Ryley, Alberta. The Sunday Morning service was set aside as a memorial to our men of the last war, as well as our men and women of this war. The communion formed part of this service, the address being given by the Rev. G. Morstad of Calgary, and administered by the local pastor. A fine spirit prevailed throughout, and all would say in the words of our first resolution; "We thank our God for the invitation to the Kingdom of Heaven, made possible by His Son, and extended by Him through His servants, to us at this convention."

One of the high-lights of the Convention was the resolution made regarding the forthcoming Camrose College Appeal, which was unanimously endorsed by the convention; "We recommend that the convention endorse the plans of Camrose Lutheran College to expand. We are in favor of giving our full support in their forthcoming building campaign."

Pastor R. Olson.

"While I passed along yonder road I saw a gravel pit cave in, and bury three men alive. I hastened to the rescue, and shouted for help until they heard me in the town almost a mile away. No one called me a madman then.

"But when I see destruction about to fall on sinners, and entomb them in the eternal mass of woe, and cry aloud, if perchance they may behold their danger and escape, they say I am beside myself. Perhaps I am, but oh, that all God's children might be thus fired with desire to save their fellows."—Selected.

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"And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying Hosanna to the son of David; Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest."

Nearly two thousand years ago the people of Jerusalem cried "Hosanna in the Highest" as Christ came through the city. Ever since that day men in all walks of life have continued to make this exclamation of joy and thanksgiving. So now again we who know and love our precious Savior again raise our voices in joy and thanksgiving for all the blessings which Christ has bestowed upon us. Not that we do not thank God every day of our lives for us to take time to give thanks and prayers to our Heavenly Father because this season of the year surely brings to our minds more vividly the great heritage we have in Christ.

Through the whole of the Old Testament we see a yearning for a deliverer and God in His great love sent Christ to be the Savior of the world so that all who would believe in Him could walk in newness of life. Through Christ we are saved so we too will sing Hosanna in the Highest.

"All glory, laud and honor
To Thee, Redeemer, King,
To Whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring."

Our Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for Thy dear Son Jesus Christ, Who came that we might no longer walk in darkness. Strengthen our faith, O Lord, that we may never lose sight of this great gift. Amen.

From Admiral

A playette, under the direction of Mrs. J. Kopperud, entitled "Fortresses of Freedom" was sponsored by the Ladies Aid of South Immanuel congregation on the evening of September 10th at the church. This play was put on to create interest and desire among young people to attend Christian colleges, and also for the parents to see the need and blessings that come from attending one where the young people not only receive their high school education but also study the Word of God. We especially had in mind S.L.B.I. at Outlook.

Between acts, college songs from Luther, Waldorf and Concordia colleges in the States were sung, also the grades XI and XII Class Songs of the June graduates at S.L.B.I. An offering amounting to \$33.83 was received and given to S.L.B.I. at Outlook.

Following this play a farewell program was presented in honor of Pastor and Mrs. Tveit and family who were shortly leaving for their new field at Preeceville Sask. There were several items, among them being the hymn "What a Friend We Have In Jesus" sung by all of Rev. Tveit's confirmants, and a reading by Mrs. E. Thingvold, entitled, "A Luther Leaguer's Prayer for its Pastor", and farewell thoughts by Mrs. Carl Kopperud. Mrs. A. Wickstrom, on behalf of the Ladies Aid, presented the honored guests with a woollen quilt having the names of the people within the district embroidered on it. On behalf of the congregation, Mr. Carl Kopperud presented them with a purse of money. In closing all sang "God be With you Till We Meet Again", lunch being served by the Ladies Aid.

Mrs. A. Wickstrom.

W. M. F.

It is hoped that a full report of the W.M.F. Board Meeting at Edmonton, together with the recommendations, will be in our next W.M.F. page.

Take Thou my hand and walk with me
Through paths of all uncertainty;
Lift up my heart to Thee above
That I may feel Thy boundless love;
Teach me, O Lord, more earnest prayer,
Give me more faith, more strength to bear
These shattered dreams, these bitter tears,
This emptiness of future years.

Mrs. Frederick Newton.

Moose Jaw Circuit W.M.F.

The convention was held October 21st, 1944, at Central Lutheran Church, Moose Jaw. After the hymn "My God How Wonderful Thou Art", Pastor S. Bue of Macoun, led in devotion and prayer, reading James 5:13-18. The convention theme "Prayer" was introduced by the president Mrs. A. G. Vinge. A fitting solo was sung by Ada Nelson, "Teach Me To Pray". A paper entitled "Persevering in Prayer" prepared by Mrs. Horace Johnson of Salem congregation near Torquay, and read by Mrs. Simon Fonstad. After the duet "Reign Thou Supreme" the guest speaker, Pastor G. O. Evenson of Outlook, spoke on "Looking to Jesus" in order to know what our prayer life should be. He emphasized how Jesus prayed reverently, anytime and anywhere, also that one should choose their life's mate under God's guidance. A cornet solo "Sweet Hour of Prayer", and the closing hymn "Lord, Teach Us How To Pray Aright". The convention offering amounted to \$29.17. Officers elected are:

President, Mrs. A. G. Vinge, Torquay; Vice-Pres. Mrs. John Groettum, Moose Jaw; Sec. Treas. Ada R. Nelson, Macoun; Cradle Roll Sec. Mrs. E. O. Ellingson, Maxim; Life Membership and In Memoriam Sec. Mrs. Helmer Nelson, Maxim; Historian, Mrs. Art Shelsted, Torquay; Librarian, Mrs. J. E. Anderson, Wilcox; Box Work Sec. Mrs. Peter Vinge, Torquay; Thankoffering Sec. Mrs. A. S. Thompson, Mossbank.

We sensed the blessing of God upon our convention, for which we thank and praise Him.

Ada R. Nelson, Sec.

Yorkton Circuit W.M.F.

No definite plans had been made for the Fall meeting, but the women enjoyed a brief informal period between sessions on Sunday, October 22nd, at North Prairie church, Preeceville. Rev. A. Tveit, pastor. In the absence of the President, Mrs. P. E. Nelson of Naicam, who was ill, the vice-president led the meeting. After prayer by Mrs. F. Carlson of Preeceville, several things were discussed in question and answer form. The matter of having a separate day for our Spring convention was brought forth and it was left to the Circuit executive to set the time and place of meeting. We pray and plan for a blessed convention under God's leadership. The Circuit also voted to pay \$10.00 towards travelling expenses to the Board meeting in Edmonton. It was also moved, seconded and carried that, in addition to the regular fee of \$1.00 to the District, each Ladies Aid in the Circuit send \$1.00 more to the District to help pay travelling expenses of officers attending future Board meetings. Our Ladies Aids were also urged to remember our boys and girls in the Services with spiritual gifts, and christian reading material. The period closed by praying the Lord's Prayer in unison. Mrs. F. Carlson, Preeceville, acted as temporary secretary.

L.D.R. News from Prince Albert Circuit

From the Historian:

Last fall I wrote to each of the L.D.R.'s and I wrote again this spring, hoping to get a report from each for our Scrapbook. On looking through the book, I find that all but two sent reports. Bagley L.D.R. responded, sending two pictures, one of Cora Martinson and one of their L.D.R. taken at the home of Mrs. Nelson when they celebrated their 25th anniversary last year. Prince Albert L.D.R. sent their history and hope they will send pictures soon. The L.D.R.s of Weldon, Lake Park, Saron all reported and sent snaps of interest. Parkside reported the previous year but not this year. As yet Birch Hills has neither a report nor pictures in the Scrapbook.

I wish to thank the L.D.R.s who have sent in either pictures or reports and encourage you to continue sending me news

of interest and pictures. Your Scrapbook Historian, Olive Nodeland.

From the Box Work Secretary:

As Box Work Secretary for the Prince Albert Circuit L.D.R., I wish to give you a short report on what we are doing in the line of Box Work. As I did not hear from all L.D.R.s I will be able only to give you a report on a few of them.

Carrot River Valley L.D.R. at Bagley sent 18 towels to Bethany Sunset Home, Bawlf, Alta. also a box containing different articles to the Shishmaref Mission Station in Alaska. Birch Hills L.D.R. sent a box of material to the Old Peoples' Home; also a box was sent from Lake Park L.D.R.. Our Saron group sent a box to the Shishmaref Mission in Alaska. This box contained a variety of things. May the Lord continue to bless this work in our L.D.R. groups.

Helen Hagen, Box Work Sec.

From the Worship Offering Secretary:

We girls of the L.D.R. are thankful that we have a means of setting aside our gifts of money as sacred to be used for the Kingdom of God through the Worship Offering. It is much more worshipful to give an offering in this way than to pay a fee or 'pay for our lunch' as we are so accustomed to do. All but two L.D.R.s in the Prince Albert Circuit have reported to be using the Worship Offering. Let us, each L.D.R. girl, pray for our L.D.R.s that our work may be to the glory of the Kingdom of God. Then, too, may we remember our offerings if it is to accomplish its intended purpose. St. Mathew 21:22 "And whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."

Phyllis Hanson, Sec.

The Drink Demon

Leader: "Be not drunk with wine wherein is excess, but be ye filled with the spirit." Ephesians 5:18.

Responses: "We will drink no wine." Jeremiah 35:6.

Leader: What is the character of wine?

Response: "Wine is a mocker; strong drink is raging, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." —Prov. 20:1.

Leader: What has intemperance done?

Response: "They have cast lots for my people, and have given a boy for an harlot, and sold a girl for wine that they might drink." —Joel 3:3.

Leader: "Who hath woe? Who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?" Prov. 23:29.

Response: "They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine." Proverbs 23:30.

Leader: What is the answer to the argument that liquor sales are necessary to provide revenue?

Response: "Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right." Proverbs 16:8.

Leader: What is drunkenness and with what is it associated?

Response: "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: Lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings and such like." Galatians 5:19-21.

Leader: What is the future of those who do these things?

Response: "They which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Galatians 5:21.

Leader: Why must the Christian abstain from strong drink?

Response: "Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils." No man can serve two masters." I Corinthians 10:21; Luke 16:13.

"Christianity is like a nail; the more you hit it the deeper it goes." —Selected.

* * *

We are what our prayers are. —Dr. Guthrie.

—Faith and Fellowship.